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AUTHOR Riley, Michelle
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ABSTRACT

Information is provided on the characteristics of St. Louis Community College (SLCC) students and their general education and liberal arts knowledge. The first sections of the report provide information on the development and administration of the General Academic Assessment (GAA), an instrument containing representative items in the humanities, sciences, social sciences, mathematics, and English usage; and background items about the students' age, college credits earned, educational and occupational aspirations, self-assessment of skills, and liberal arts background. Next, the characteristics of the sample of 1,198 SLCC students who completed the GAA are outlined. The bulk of the report consists of tabular presentations of findings, covering: (1) means on GAA scales by age, number of completed college units, location of high school from which student graduated, highest degree held, when student anticipated receiving the associate degree, reason for attending college, race, whether or not English was the native language, career aspirations, and self-rating on scale-related skill; (2) means and percent change of means on GAA scales by number of completed courses in scale-related curriculum, and on total liberal arts scale by total number of completed college units; (3) number of completed math, English, social science, humanities, science, and total courses by race; and (4) means on discipline scales by race and related courses taken. (HB)

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# THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT: ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1984

MICHELLE RILEY

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

May 22, 1984

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ARTHUR M. COHEN
JOHN LOMBARDI
FLORENCE B. BRAWER

1047 GAYLEY AVENUE SUITE 205
LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA 90024
(213) 206-6088

May 22, 1984

# THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT: ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE 1984

A Report Compiled by Michelle Riley

## BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Since 1974 the Center for the Study of Community Colleges has been tracing trends in the liberal arts and transfer education by surveying students, faculty, curriculum, and instructional practices. The Center staff has conducted national studies of faculty, curriculum and instruction; surveyed regional cohorts of students; visited numerous colleges; sponsored workshops to bring people together to share ideas; and disseminated information through papers, conference speeches, and publications.

The various surveys and intensive studies yielded information on course requirements, student and faculty attitudes and demography, instructional practices, curricular sequences, and reasons for the rise and fall of the liberal arts and general education. But a complete picture could not yet be drawn. How much were the students learning? What did they know about science, social science, and the humanities? The extent of student knowledge -- the purpose of the enterprise -- was still unclear.

There seemed a need for a way of assessing students' knowledge of the liberal arts -- not course-specific knowledge, not knowledge for the purpose of placing students in courses, diagnosing their weaknesses, or comparing them with their fellows. The need was for a procedure to gain information that could be used in program planning and in apprising staff, clients, and constituents of the learning manifested by students who had taken liberal arts and general education courses in community colleges.

Accordingly, the Center staff developed and field-tested a student survey and general academic assessment that yields information about student knowledge in general education and the liberal arts. This General Academic Assessment (GAA) has representative numbers of items in the humanities, sciences, social sciences, mathematics, and English usage. In addition, it contains such background items about the students as age, the number of college credits earned, educational and occupational aspirations, self-assessment of their skills, and the number of liberal-arts courses taken.

The GAA was designed for use in community colleges. It assesses learning of cohorts of students, not the learning of individual students enrolled in certain classes. It will not be administered to students in universities nor will its results be compared with scores made on other assessments. It is for use in community colleges by community college educators as an aid to informing decisions about curricular modifications and estimating institutional outcomes.

SPECIFICATIONS

Source of Items

The questions in the demographic portion of the GAA were gleaned from questions that proved useful in the Center's 1980 and 1981 surveys of more than 12,000 students in Washington State and Los Angeles. Many of the questions on students' self-ratings of their academic abilities were extrapolated from the concepts defined by the groups working on Skills for Living in Dallas, associate degree and general education requirements in Los Angeles, the Arts and Sciences in the Maricopa District, and the Core Curriculum Approach to General Education in Miami. The item regarding race was entered upon request of Los Angeles District.

Items for the content portion were drawn from several sources. The National Assessment of Educational Progress provided numerous usable items in science, social science, and mathematics. Educational Testing Service made items in the humanities and social sciences available on loan for purposes of this project. The City Colleges of Chicago provided items in English usage. And Miami-Dade provided items in the humanities. Center staff members culled the items with the help of instructors and counselors from several California community colleges. Final selection was made by panels of staff members from colleges in Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, Phoenix, and St. Louis.

The current survey forms include 19 demographic and student experience questions and 57 items in humanities, 60 in English usage, 52 in mathematics, 59 in science, and 71 in social science.

Sampling

The sample was obtained by taking every twentieth eligible class section in each of the three campus' Spring, 1984 schedule of classes. In order to avoid bias due to the order in which courses were listed, a different starting point was randomly chosen for each schedule. Only sections with academic transfer-credits were eligible, hence did not include remedial classes, vocational-technical classes, adult education, or community services courses. Due to anticipated problems with the logistics of administering the survey, also excluded were: Laboratories and workshops, physical education, independent or directed studies, field studies, open entry-exit courses, and off-campus courses.

The class section was used as the unit of sampling because it is the most feasible way of administering a survey to the target population, community college students. It therefore achieves a random sample of students enrolled in transfer courses. However, it has the disadvantage of skewing the sample in the direction of full-time students. For instance, a student taking four classes has four times as many chances of being in a sampled class section as a student taking only one class. Nevertheless, the sample, based on duplicated headcount, is an accurate representation since the full-time students represent higher proportions of the full-time-equivalent enrollment in the district.

## SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

The sample of St. Louis Community College students (N=1,198) for the General Academic Assessment survey revealed the following percentage distributions of background characteristics:

Age: 20 or less, 50 percent; 21-30, 36 percent; 31-40, 9 percent; Over 40, 5 percent (n=1,174).
Total Number of Completed College Units: 0-14 units, 29 percent; 15-29 units, 23 percent; 30-44 units, 21 percent; 45-59 units, 13 percent; 60 or more units, 14 percent (n=1,178).
Number of Completed English Courses: None, 18 percent; one, 33 percent; two, 31 percent; three or more, 18 percent (n=1,175).
Number of Completed Humanities Courses: None, 37 percent; one, 22 percent; two, 17 percent; three or more, 24 percent (n=1,169).
Number of Completed Science Courses: None, 47 percent; one, 24 percent; two, 10 percent; three or more, 19 percent (n=1,164).
Number of Completed Mathematics Courses: None, 26 percent; one, 32 percent; two, 18 percent; three or more, 24 percent (n=1,167).
Number of Completed Social Science Courses: None, 30 percent; one, 27 percent; two, 18 percent; three or more, 25 percent (n=1,166),
High School Average Grade: A, 3 percent; A-, 8 percent; B+, 17 percent; B, 23 percent; B-, 14 percent; C+, 19 percent; C, 12 percent; D, 1 percent; not a high school graduate, 3 percent (n=1,173).
Highest Degree Held: None, 92 percent; A.A., 5 percent; bachelor's, 2 percent; master's or doctorate, 1 percent (n=1,176).
When Plan to Earn A.A. Degree: June, 1984, 15 percent; June, 1985 or later, 72 percent; not working toward A.A., 13 percent (n=1,115).
Reason for Attending College: To prepare for transfer to a four-year college or university, 50 percent; to gain skills necessary to enter a specific occupation, 36 percent; to gain skills necessary to advance in a current occupation, 8 percent; to satisfy a personal interest, 6 percent (n=1,170).
Race: Black, 18 percent; White, 77 percent, other (including Hispanic and Asian), 5 percent (n=1,153).
Whether or Not English is the Native Language or Language Ordinarily Spoken in the Home: Yes, 97 percent; no, 3 percent (n,1,181).
Career Aspirations: Advanced degree professions, 20 percent; allied health, 13 percent; applied arts, 10 percent; business operations, 7 percent; management and sales, 11 percent; social service, 7 percent; technologies, 15 percent; trades and crafts, 1 percent; not listed, 10 percent; not sure, 6 percent (n=1,185).
Campus: Florissant Valley, 32 percent; Forest Park, 25 percent; Meramec, 43 percent (N=1,185).

## PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS: TABLES

1. Means on Scales by Age
2. Means on Scales by Total Number of Completed College Units
3. Means on Scales by High School Grade Average
4. Means on Scales by Highest Degree Held
5. Means on Scales by When Student Anticipates Getting the A.A. Degree
6. Means on Scales by Reason for Attending College
7. Means on Scales by Race
8. Means on Scales by Whether or Not English is the Native Language
9. Means on Scales by Career Aspirations
10. Means on Scales by Self-Rating on Scale-Related Skill
11. Means and Percent Change of Means on Scales by Number of Completed Courses in Scale-Related Curriculum
12. Means and Percent Change of Means on Total Liberal Arts Scale by Total Number of Completed College Units
13. Number of Completed Mathematics Courses by Race, In Percentage
14. Number of Completed English Courses by Race, In Percentage
15. Number of Completed Social Science Courses by Race, In Percentage
16. Number of Completed Humanities Courses by Race, In Percentage
17. Number of Completed Science Courses by Race, In Percentage
18. Total Number of Completed College Units by Race, In Percentage
19. Means on Mathematics Scale by Race and Number of Completed Mathematics Courses, Showing Percent Change of Mean from No Courses to Three or More Courses
20. Means on Literacy Scale by Race and Number of Completed English Courses, Showing Percent Change of Mean from No Courses to Three or More Courses

21. Means on Social Science Scale by Race and Number of Completed Social Science Courses, Showing Percent Change of Mean from No Courses to Three or More Courses

22. Means on Humanities Scale by Race and Number of Completed Humanities Courses, Showing Percent Change of Mean from No Courses to Three or More Courses

23. Means on Science Scale by Race and Number of Completed Science Courses, Showing Percent Change of Mean from No Courses to Three or More Courses

24. Means on Scales by Total Number of Completed College Black versus All Other Races

25. Means on Scales by Total Number of Completed College Units, White versus All Other Races

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 1

MEANS ON SCALES BY AGE

| | GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT SCALES | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AGE | MATHEMATICS | LITERACY | SOCIAL SCIENCE | HUMANITIES | SCIENCE | TOTAL LIBERAL ARTS |
| 20 YEARS OR YOUNGER | 5.67 | 5.67 | 5.29 | 3.52 | 5.91 | 26.06 |
| 21-30 YEARS | 5.74 | 5.70 | 5.64 | 3.72 | 5.91 | 26.71 |
| 31-40 YEARS | 5.17 | 5.69 | 6.06 | 4.07 | 5.66 | 26.64 |
| OVER 40 | 4.77 | 6.19 | 6.26 | 4.57 | 6.04 | 27.83 |
| TOTAL SAMPLE | 5.59 | 5.70 | 5.53 | 3.69 | 5.88 | 26.39 |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 2

MEANS ON SCALES BY

NUMBER OF COMPLETED COLLEGE UNITS

| | GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT SCALES | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| COMPLETED UNITS | MATHEMATICS | LITERACY | SOCIAL SCIENCE | HUMANITIES | SCIENCE | TOTAL LIBERAL ARTS |
| 0-14 | 4.98 | 5.29 | 5.02 | 3.36 | 5.53 | 24.17 |
| 15-29 | 5.54 | 5.63 | 5.35 | 3.34 | 5.93 | 25.78 |
| 30-44 | 5.72 | 5.78 | 5.59 | 3.68 | 5.83 | 26.60 |
| 45-59 | 6.04 | 5.86 | 6.01 | 4.03 | 6.01 | 27.94 |
| 60 OR MORE | 6.36 | 6.45 | 6.32 | 4.69 | 6.47 | 30.29 |
| TOTAL SAMPLE | 5.59 | 5.70 | 5.53 | 3.69 | 5.88 | 26.39 |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 3

MEANS ON SCALES BY HIGH SCHOOL GRADE AVERAGE

| | GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT SCALES | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GRADE AVERAGE | MATHEMATICS | LITERACY | SOCIAL SCIENCE | HUMANITIES | SCIENCE | TOTAL LIBERAL ARTS |
| A | 6.43 | 6.83 | 5.58 | 4.80 | 6.10 | 29.73 |
| A- | 6.19 | 6.41 | 6.02 | 4.25 | 6.39 | 29.27 |
| B+ | 6.25 | 6.22 | 5.94 | 3.95 | 6.29 | 28.65 |
| B | 5.56 | 5.91 | 5.52 | 3.82 | 6.09 | 26.91 |
| B- | 5.36 | 5.40 | 5.19 | 3.46 | 5.64 | 25.05 |
| C+ | 5.06 | 5.28 | 5.30 | 3.35 | 5.62 | 24.61 |
| C | 5.21 | 5.02 | 5.36 | 3.25 | 5.30 | 24.13 |
| D OR NOT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE | 5.56 | 5.31 | 5.54 | 3.69 | 5.42 | 25.52 |
| TOTAL SAMPLE | 5.59 | 5.70 | 5.53 | 3.69 | 5.88 | 26.39 |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 4

MEANS ON SCALES BY HIGHEST DEGREE HELD

| | GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT SCALES | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HIGHEST DEGREE | MATHEMATICS | LITERACY | SOCIAL SCIENCE | HUMANITIES | SCIENCE | TOTAL LIBERAL ARTS |
| NONE | 5.59 | 5.67 | 5.48 | 3.58 | 5.85 | 26.16 |
| A.A. | 5.55 | 5.29 | 5.96 | 3.98 | 5.94 | 26.73 |
| BACHELOR'S OR HIGHER | 6.10 | 7.20 | 6.49 | 6.34 | 7.00 | 33.12 |
| TOTAL SAMPLE | 5.59 | 5.70 | 5.53 | 3.69 | 5.88 | 26.39 |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 5

MEANS ON SCALES BY

WHEN STUDENT ANTICIPATES GETTING THE A.A. DEGREE

| | GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT SCALES | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WHEN GET A.A. | MATHEMATICS | LITERACY | SOCIAL SCIENCE | HUMANITIES | SCIENCE | TOTAL LIBERAL ARTS |
| JUNE, 1984 | 6.05 | 5.85 | 5.93 | 3.97 | 6.09 | 27.89 |
| JUNE, 1985 OR LATER | 5.46 | 5.56 | 5.38 | 3.47 | 5.76 | 25.64 |
| NOT WORKING TOWARD A.A. | 5.50 | 5.95 | 5.53 | 3.92 | 5.95 | 26.84 |
| TOTAL SAMPLE | 5.59 | 5.70 | 5.53 | 3.69 | 5.88 | 26.39 |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 6

MEANS ON SCALES BY REASON FOR ATTENDING COLLEGE

| | GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT SCALES | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| REASON FOR ATTENDING COLLEGE | MATHEMATICS | LITERACY | SOCIAL SCIENCE | HUMANITIES | SCIENCE | TOTAL LIBERAL ARTS |
| TRANSFER TO 4-YEAR INSTITUTION | 6.05 | 5.95 | 5.87 | 3.91 | 6.17 | 27.95 |
| ENTRY INTO SPECIFIC OCCUPATION | 5.14 | 5.43 | 5.13 | 3.41 | 5.53 | 24.64 |
| ADVANCE IN CURRENT OCCUPATION | 5.20 | 5.52 | 5.20 | 3.25 | 5.56 | 24.73 |
| PERSONAL INTEREST | 5.15 | 5.76 | 5.64 | 4.21 | 5.94 | 26.69 |
| TOTAL SAMPLE | 5.59 | 5.70 | 5.53 | 3.69 | 5.88 | 26.39 |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 7

MEANS ON SCALES BY RACE

| | GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT SCALES | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RACE | MATHEMATICS | LITERACY | SOCIAL SCIENCE | HUMANITIES | SCIENCE | TOTAL LIBERAL ARTS |
| BLACK | 4.16 | 4.55 | 4.43 | 2.72 | 4.45 | 20.30 |
| WHITE | 5.97 | 6.07 | 5.83 | 3.96 | 6.28 | 28.10 |
| OTHER | 5.29 | 4.61 | 5.30 | 3.38 | 5.41 | 23.98 |
| TOTAL SAMPLE | 5.59 | 5.70 | 5.53 | 3.69 | 5.88 | 26.39 |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 8

MEANS ON SCALES BY WHETHER

OR NOT ENGLISH IS THE NATIVE LANGUAGE

| | GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT SCALES | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ENGLISH IS NATIVE LANGUAGE | MATHEMATICS | LITERACY | SOCIAL SCIENCE | HUMANITIES | SCIENCE | TOTAL LIBERAL ARTS |
| YES | 5.63 | 5.77 | 5.56 | 3.73 | 5.95 | 26.64 |
| NO | 4.68 | 3.60 | 4.55 | 2.53 | 4.13 | 19.48 |
| TOTAL SAMPLE | 5.59 | 5.70 | 5.55 | 3.69 | 5.88 | 26.39 |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 9

MEANS ON SCALES BY CAREER ASPIRATIONS

| | GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT SCALES | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CAREER ASPIRATIONS | MATHEMATICS | LITERACY | SOCIAL SCIENCE | HUMANITIES | SCIENCE | TOTAL LIBERAL ARTS |
| ADVANCED PROFESSION | 6.52 | 6.20 | 6.15 | 4.17 | 6.68 | 29.72 |
| ALLIED HEALTH | 4.82 | 5.33 | 5.07 | 3.30 | 5.38 | 23.89 |
| APPLIED ARTS | 5.12 | 5.60 | 5.43 | 4.22 | 5.95 | 26.33 |
| BUSINESS OPERATIONS | 4.85 | 5.31 | 5.01 | 3.01 | 5.26 | 23.44 |
| MANAGEMENT-SALES | 5.51 | 6.01 | 5.58 | 3.96 | 5.85 | 26.90 |
| SOCIAL SERVICE | 4.84 | 5.79 | 5.71 | 3.63 | 5.60 | 25.58 |
| TECHNOLOGIES | 6.60 | 5.80 | 5.55 | 3.66 | 6.38 | 27.98 |
| TRADES-CRAFTS* | 4.93 | 3.79 | 5.00 | 2.71 | 5.21 | 21.64 |
| NONE OF THESE | 4.92 | 5.27 | 5.12 | 3.13 | 5.00 | 23.44 |
| NOT SURE | 5.59 | 5.51 | 5.46 | 3.58 | 5.54 | 25.68 |
| TOTAL SAMPLE | 5.59 | 5.70 | 5.53 | 3.69 | 5.88 | 26.39 |

*CAUTIONARY NOTE: MEANS FOR "TRADES-CRAFTS" ARE BASED ON ONLY 14 PEOPLE.

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 10

MEANS BY SELF-RATING ON SCALE-RELATED SKILL

| | GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT SCALES AND RELATED SKILLS | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SELF-RATING | MATHEMATICS WITH RATING ON USE OF ALGEBRA | LITERACY WITH RATING ON EDITING WRITTEN MATERIAL | SOCIAL SCIENCE WITH RATING ON UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES | HUMANITIES WITH RATING ON UNDERSTANDING ART, MUSIC, DRAMA | SCIENCE WITH RATING ON UNDERSTANDING SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS |
| POOR | 4.37 | 4.74 | 5.01 | 2.93 | 4.93 |
| FAIR | 5.14 | 5.47 | 5.20 | 3.47 | 5.33 |
| GOOD | 5.80 | 5.76 | 5.90 | 3.85 | 6.16 |
| EXCELLENT | 7.09 | 7.07 | 6.28 | 4.76 | 6.93 |
| TOTAL SAMPLE | 5.59 | 5.70 | 5.53 | 3.69 | 5.88 |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 11

MEANS AND PERCENT CHANGE OF MEANS BY
NUMBER OF COMPLETED COURSES IN SCALE-RELATED CURRICULUM

| NUMBER OF COMPLETED COURSES IN SCALE-RELATED CURRICULUM | GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT SCALES | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | MATHEMATICS | | LITERACY | | SOC. SCIENCE | | HUMANITIES | | SCIENCE | |
| | MEAN | % CHANGE | MEAN | % CHANGE | MEAN | % CHANGE | MEAN | % CHANGE | MEAN | % CHANGE |
| NONE | 4.74 | -- | 5.26 | -- | 4.98 | -- | 3.07 | -- | 5.48 | -- |
| 1 | 5.22 | +10% | 5.90 | +12% | 5.42 | +9% | 3.74 | +22% | 5.79 | +6% |
| 2 | 5.86 | +12 | 5.57 | -6 | 5.58 | +3 | 3.73 | * | 6.10 | +5 |
| 3 OR MORE | 6.85 | +17 | 6.00 | +8 | 6.23 | +12 | 4.54 | 22 | 6.86 | +13 |
| % DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "NO COURSES" AND "3 OR MORE" MEANS | | +45% | | +14% | | +25% | | +48% | | +25% |

*PERCENT CHANGE LESS THAN 1 PERCENT.

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 12

MEANS AND PERCENT CHANGE OF MEANS
ON TOTAL LIBERAL ARTS SCALE BY TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLETED COLLEGE UNITS

| | TOTAL LIBERAL ARTS SCALE | |
|---|---|---|
| COMPLETED UNITS | MEAN | % CHANGE |
| 0-14 | 24.17 | -- |
| 15-29 | 25.78 | +7% |
| 30-44 | 26.60 | +3 |
| 45-59 | 27.94 | +5 |
| 60 OR MORE | 30.29 | +8 |
| % DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "0-14" AND "60 OR MORE" MEANS | -- | +25% |

TABLES 13 THROUGH 17:
COURSE-TAKING BY RACE

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 13

NUMBER OF COMPLETED MATHEMATICS COURSES BY RACE, IN PERCENTAGE

| NUMBER OF MATHEMATICS COURSES | RACE | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | BLACK | WHITE | OTHER |
| | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| NONE | 27 | 27 | 20 |
| ONE | 31 | 32 | 33 |
| TWO | 23 | 16 | 19 |
| THREE OR MORE | 19 | 25 | 28 |
| COLUMN PERCENT TOTAL | 100 | 100 | 100 |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 14

NUMBER OF COMPLETED ENGLISH COURSES BY RACE, IN PERCENTAGE

| NUMBER OF ENGLISH COURSES | RACE | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | BLACK | WHITE | OTHER |
| | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| NONE | 19 | 18 | 23 |
| ONE | 25 | 36 | 24 |
| TWO | 35 | 29 | 29 |
| THREE OR MORE | 21 | 17 | 24 |
| COLUMN PERCENT TOTAL | 100 | 100 | 100 |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 15

NUMBER OF COMPLETED SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSES
BY RACE, IN PERCENTAGE

| NUMBER OF SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSES | RACE | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | BLACK | WHITE | OTHER |
| | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| NONE | 32 | 30 | 24 |
| ONE | 22 | 28 | 32 |
| TWO | 22 | 17 | 23 |
| THREE OR MORE | 24 | 25 | 21 |
| COLUMN PERCENT TOTAL | 100 | 100 | 100 |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 16

. NUMBER OF COMPLETED HUMANITIES COURSES BY RACE, IN PERCENTAGE

| NUMBER OF HUMANITIES COURSES | RACE | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | BLACK | WHITE | OTHER |
| | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| NONE | 44 | 36 | 28 |
| ONE | 23 | 22 | 25 |
| TWO | 13 | 17 | 19 |
| THREE OR MORE | 20 | 25 | 28 |
| COLUMN PERCENT TOTAL | 100 | 100 | 100 |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 17

NUMBER OF COMPLETED SCIENCE COURSES BY RACE, IN PERCENTAGE

| NUMBER OF SCIENCE COURSES | RACE | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | BLACK | WHITE | OTHER |
| | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| NONE | 47 | 47 | 47 |
| ONE | 26 | 23 | 21 |
| TWO | 11 | 10 | 15 |
| THREE OR MORE | 16 | 20 | 17 |
| COLUMN PERCENT TOTAL | 100 | 100 | 100 |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 18

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLETED COLLEGE UNITS BY RACE, IN PERCENTAGE

| NUMBER OF UNITS | RACE | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | BLACK | WHITE | OTHER |
| | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| 0-14 | 31 | 28 | 33 |
| 15-29 | 21 | 23 | 24 |
| 30-44 | 22 | 21 | 19 |
| 45-59 | 10 | 14 | 11 |
| 60 OR MORE | 16 | 14 | 13 |
| COLUMN PERCENT TOTAL | 100 | 100 | 100 |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 19

MEANS ON MATHEMATICS SCALE
BY RACE AND NUMBER OF COMPLETED MATHEMATICS COURSES,
SHOWING PERCENT CHANGE OF MEAN FROM NO COURSES TO THREE OR MORE COURSES

| RACE | NUMBER OF MATHEMATICS COURSES | | | | % CHANGE OF MEAN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | NONE | ONE | TWO | THREE OR MORE | |
| BLACK | 3.41 | 3.66 | 4.77 | 5.32 | +56% |
| WHITE | 5.11 | 5.56 | 6.33 | 7.19 | +41 |
| TOTAL SAMPLE MEANS | 4.74 | 5.22 | 5.86 | 6.85 | +45% |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNTIY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 20

MEANS ON LITERACY SCALE BY RACE AND NUMBER OF COMPLETED ENGLISH COURSES, SHOWING PERCENT CHANGE OF MEAN FROM NO COURSES TO THREE OR MORE COURSES

| RACE | NUMBER OF ENGLISH COURSES | | | | % CHANGE OF MEANS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | NONE | ONE | TWO | THREE OR MORE | |
| BLACK | 3.90 | 4.52 | 4.82 | 4.72 | +21% |
| WHITE | 5.59 | 6.17 | 5.91 | 6.62 | +18 |
| TOTAL SAMPLE MEANS | 5.26 | 5.90 | 5.57 | 6.00 | +14% |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 21

MEANS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE SCALE BY
RACE AND NUMBER OF COMPLETED SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSES,
SHOWING PERCENT CHANGE OF MEAN FROM NO COURSES TO THREE OR MORE COURSES

| RACE | NUMBER OF SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSES | | | | % CHANGE OF MEANS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | NONE | ONE | TWO | THREE OR MORE | |
| BLACK | 3.75 | 3.82 | 5.11 | 5.22 | +39% |
| WHITE | 5.26 | 5.76 | 5.83 | 6.53 | +24 |
| TOTAL SAMPLE MEANS | 4.98 | 5.42 | 5.58 | 6.23 | +25% |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 22

MEANS ON HUMANITIES SCALE BY RACE AND NUMBER OF COMPLETED HUMANITIES COURSES, SHOWING PERCENT CHANGE OF MEAN FROM NO COURSES TO THREE OR MORE COURSES

| RACE | NUMBER OF HUMANITIES COURSES | | | | % CHANGE OF MEANS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | NONE | ONE | TWO | THREE OR MORE | |
| BLACK | 2.27 | 3.13 | 2.04 | 3.61 | +59% |
| WHITE | 3.37 | 3.89 | 4.09 | 4.74 | +41 |
| TOTAL SAMPLE MEANS | 3.07 | 3.74 | 3.73 | 4.54 | +48% |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 23

MEANS ON SCIENCE SCALE BY RACE AND NUMBER OF COMPLETED SCIENCE COURSES, SHOWING PERCENT CHANGE OF MEAN FROM NO COURSES TO THREE OR MORE COURSES

| RACE | NUMBER OF SCIENCE COURSES | | | | % CHANGE OF MEANS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | NONE | ONE | TWO | THREE OR MORE | |
| BLACK | 4.17 | 4.57 | 4.74 | 4.79 | +15% |
| WHITE | 5.85 | 6.19 | 6.57 | 7.31 | +25 |
| TOTAL SAMPLE MEANS | 5.48 | 5.79 | 6.10 | 6.86 | +25% |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 24

MEANS ON SCALES BY TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLETED COLLEGE UNITS, BLACK VERSUS ALL OTHER RACES

| TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLETED UNITS | GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT SCALES | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | MATHEMATICS | | LITERACY | | SOCIAL SCIENCE | | HUMANITIES | | SCIENCE | | TOTAL LIBERAL ARTS | |
| | BLACK | ALL OTHERS | BLACK | ALL OTHERS | BLACK | ALL OTHERS | BLACK | ALL OTHERS | BLACK | ALL OTHERS | BLACK | ALL OTHERS |
| 0-14 | 3.78 | 5.26 | 4.10 | 5.62 | 3.92 | 5.32 | 2.65 | 3.54 | 4.29 | 5.86 | 18.73 | 25.60 |
| 15-29 | 4.05 | 5.89 | 4.86 | 5.80 | 4.61 | 5.53 | 2.46 | 3.54 | 4.09 | 6.32 | 20.07 | 27.07 |
| 30-44 | 4.33 | 6.08 | 4.35 | 6.11 | 4.20 | 5.94 | 2.70 | 3.90 | 4.61 | 6.12 | 20.17 | 28.16 |
| 45-59 | 4.67 | 6.34 | 5.10 | 6.06 | 5.91 | 6.13 | 3.33 | 4.25 | 4.52 | 6.44 | 23.52 | 29.21 |
| 60 OR MORE | 4.66 | 6.76 | 4.94 | 6.88 | 4.63 | 6.76 | 2.94 | 5.10 | 4.94 | 6.88 | 22.09 | 32.37 |
| COLUMN MEANS | 4.16 | 5.93 | 4.55 | 6.00 | 4.43 | 5.80 | 2.72 | 3.93 | 4.45 | 6.24 | 20.30 | 27.90 |

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE GAA SURVEY: TABLE 25

MEANS ON SCALES BY TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLETED COLLEGE UNITS,
WHITE VERSUS ALL OTHER RACES

| TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLETED UNITS | GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT SCALES | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | MATHEMATICS | | LITERACY | | SOCIAL SCIENCE | | HUMANITIES | | SCIENCE | | TOTAL LIBERAL ARTS | |
| | WHITE | ALL OTHERS | WHITE | ALL OTHERS | WHITE | ALL OTHERS | WHITE | ALL OTHERS | WHITE | ALL OTHERS | WHITE | ALL OTHERS |
| 0-14 | 5.27 | 4.09 | 5.65 | 4.35 | 5.27 | 4.36 | 3.51 | 2.95 | 5.34 | 4.69 | 25.54 | 20.43 |
| 15-29 | 5.95 | 4.25 | 5.92 | 4.63 | 5.56 | 4.70 | 3.60 | 2.47 | 5.41 | 4.26 | 27.45 | 20.32 |
| 30-44 | 6.10 | 4.57 | 6.19 | 4.41 | 6.00 | 4.34 | 3.95 | 2.75 | 6.15 | 4.79 | 28.38 | 20.86 |
| 45-59 | 6.39 | 4.82 | 6.12 | 5.00 | 6.16 | 5.78 | 4.29 | 3.37 | 6.59 | 4.26 | 29.56 | 23.22 |
| 60 OR MORE | 6.81 | 4.87 | 6.98 | 4.95 | 6.83 | 4.80 | 5.16 | 3.15 | 6.93 | 5.13 | 32.70 | 22.90 |
| COLUMN MEANS | 5.97 | 4.42 | 6.07 | 4.58 | 5.83 | 4.64 | 3.96 | 2.88 | 6.28 | 4.64 | 28.10 | 21.16 |

# APPENDIX

This section contains:

1. Sample items for each of the five field scales.
2. A copy of the front-page questions regarding background characteristics.
3. A sample answer sheet.

GENERAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT SCALES: SAMPLE QUESTIONS
(All From Form A)

Math Scale Sample

36. Kate averages 10 miles per hour on her bike. At this rate how far will she travel in 90 minutes?

(A) 45 miles
(B) 10 miles
(C) 9 miles
(D) 15 miles
(E) More information is needed to solve this problem

Literary Scale Sample

These instructions are given: Most of the following sentences contain mistakes in punctuation -- comma, semicolon, colon, quotation mark, question mark, apostrophe. (A wrong mark might be used, a necessary mark might be missing, or there might be a mark of punctuation where there should be none.) A few of the sentences are correctly punctuated. Circle the letter on the answer sheet indicating the location of the error if there is one.

44. Samuel Butler asks this teasing question: "Is not a hen only an egg's way
A B C
of making another egg." (No error)
D E

Science Scale Sample

86. Iron combines with oxygen to form rust. One should therefore find that rust weighs

(A) the same as the iron it came from.
(B) the same as the oxygen it came from.
(C) less than the iron it came from.
(D) less than the oxygen it came from.
(E) more than the iron it came from.

Humanities Scale Sample

75. Which of the following artists was not known as an impressionist?

(A) Monet
(B) Manet
(C) Seurrat
(D) Rembrandt
(E) Renoir

Social Science Scale Sample

68. Which of the following forms the basis of all social organizations in folk societies?

(A) Kinship
(B) Cultural homogeneity
(C) Religious belief
(D) The distribution of wealth
(E) The small size of the group

SAINT LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
AND
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

STUDENT SURVEY

Dear Student:

This survey is designed to gain information helpful in planning community college courses and programs. The information it will provide is confidential; your identity will not be revealed in any way. The information will not become part of your college record.

Please complete this survey according to the directions given for the various items. Use the answer sheet provided. Do not write in the booklet.

1. How old are you? Write your age (number of years) in the space provided on the answer sheet.

2. How many credit hours (units) have you earned at this or any college? Include credit for completed degrees, if any. Do not include credit for courses now in progress. Circle the appropriate category on the answer sheet.

Questions 3-7
On the answer sheet circle the number of college courses you have completed at this or any college in each of the areas listed below. If none, circle zero.

3. Communications/English Composition

4. Humanities (for example, Anthropology, Art, Foreign Languages, History, Literature, Music and Philosophy)

5. Sciences (for example, Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Physics)

6. Mathematics and Computer Science

7. Social Sciences (for example, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, Political Science)

8. What was your average grade in high school upon graduation? Circle the appropriate letter grade on the answer sheet. If you did not graduate from high school, circle none.

9. Which is the highest degree that you have already earned?

   (A) None
   (B) Associate
   (C) Bachelor
   (D) Master's or doctorate

10. If none, by when will you qualify for an Associate Degree?

    (A) June, 1984
    (B) June, 1985 or later
    (C) Not working toward degree.

11. What is the primary reason that you are attending college? (Mark only one answer.)

    (A) To prepare for transfer to a four-year college or university.
    (B) To gain skills necessary to enter a specific occupation.
    (C) To gain skills necessary to advance in a current occupation.
    (D) To satisfy a personal interest.

12. Are you:
    (This question is optional)

    (A) Asian
    (B) Black
    (C) Hispanic
    (D) White
    (E) Other

13. Is English your native language or the language ordinarily spoken in your home?

    (A) Yes
    (B) No

14. Are you planning a career in an area listed below? Please choose only <u>one</u> answer.

(A) Advanced Degree Professions (e.g., engineer, lawyer, physician, professor, accountant)

(B) Allied Health (e.g., nurse, medical technician, physical therapist, dental assistant or hygienist)

(C) Applied Arts (e.g., artist, writer, musician, actor, designer)

(D) Business Operations (e.g., hotel or restaurant worker, bookkeeper, cosmetologist, office machine operator)

(E) Management and Sales (e.g., manager, insurance, stock or real estate agent)

(F) Social Service (e.g., teacher; social, welfare, or recreation worker; law or corrections officer)

(G) Technologies (e.g., engineering, electronics, or laboratory technician, draftsman, computer programmer)

(H) Trades and Crafts (e.g., construction worker, mechanic, automotive, factory, or farm worker)

(I) I don't know

(J) None of the above

Compared to other students at this college how would you rate your ability to do each of the following:

| | | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15. | Understand the implications of scientific and technological developments | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 16. | Understand art, classical music, drama | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 17. | Understand different political ideologies | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 18. | Edit written material | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 19. | Use algebra to solve problems | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |

PLEASE CONTINUE WITH ITEM 30 ON THE NEXT PAGE

ST-L

ANSWER SHEET

FORM A

1) Age
_____ years

Please circle the correct category.

2) Number of credit hours/units earned
0-14 15-29 30-44 45-59 60+

3) Number of English courses completed
0 1 2 3+

4) Number of Humanities courses completed
0 1 2 3+

5) Number of Science courses completed
0 1 2 3+

6) Number of Mathematics courses completed
0 1 2 3+

7) Number of Social Science courses completed
0 1 2 3+

8) Average grade in high school
A A- B+ B B- C+ C D None

Please circle the correct letter.

9) A B C D

10) A B C

11) A B C D

12) A B C D E

13) A B

14) A B C D E F G H I J

15) A B C D

16) A B C D

17) A B C D

18) A B C D

19) A B C D

30) A B C D

31) A B C D

32) A B

33) A B

34) A B C D

35) A B C D

36) A B C D E

37) A B C D E

38) A B C D E

39) A B C D

40) A B C D E

41) A B C D E

42) A B C D E

43) A B C D E

44) A B C D E

45) A B C D E

PLEASE TURN THE ANSWER SHEET OVER AND CONTINUE

46) A B C D E

47) A B C D E

48) A B C D E

49) A B C D E

50) A B C D E

51) A B C D E

52) A B C

53) A B C

54) A B C D

55) A B C D

56) A B C D

57) A B C D

58) A B C D

59) A B C D

60) A B C D

61) A B C D E

62) A B C D

63) A B C D

64) A B

65) A B

66) A B

67) A B C D E

68) A B C D E

69) A B C D E

70) A B C D E

71) A B C D

72) A B C D E

73) A B C D

74) A B C D E

75) A B C D E

76) A B C D E

77) A B C D

78) A B C D E

79) A B C D E

80) A B C D E

81) A B C D E

82) A B C D E

83) A B C D E

84) A B C D E F

85) A B C D

86) A B C D E

87) A B

88) A B

89) A B

90) A B

91) A B

92) A B C D E

93) A B C D

94) A B C D E

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY. PLEASE RETURN BOTH THE BOOKLET AND THE ANSWER SHEET TO THE PERSON COLLECTING THEM.



ERIC Clearinghouse for Junior Colleges
AUG 31 1984